(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken to eliminate the rampant corruption in the Public Distribution System in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) In order to make delivery of services efficient under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and to assess replicability of use of smart cards for this purpose, Government has approved in December 2008 implementation of a pilot scheme on smart cards based TPDS in Chandigarh and Haryana. Under it, eligible BPL families would be issued smart cards in place of existing ration cards. They will have biometric features of the family members, based on which verification of genuineness of the BPL families will take place and thereafter only the essential commodities would be issued to them from the fair price shops.

For commencing implementation of this scheme, work is in progress by the implementing agencies *i.e.* Government of Haryana, Chandigarh UT Administration and National Informatics Centre.

To streamline working of TPDS, Government has initiated a series of measures such as:

(i) continuous review of lists of BPL and AAY families and ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at fair price shops;

(ii) ensuring greater transparency in functioning of TPDS;

(iii) improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels;

(iv) introduction of new technologies such as Computerization of TPDS operations at various levels, smart-card-based delivery of essential commodities; and

(v) getting periodically evaluated functioning of TPDS.

Import of wheat

1561. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to slate:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the recent past Government has imported around 50 lakh tonnes of wheat at a huge loss of the exchequer;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government paid to the foreign traders exorbitant price upto nearly Rs. 16000 per tonne against the minimum support price of Rs. 8500 per tonne;

(c) if so, whether any inquiry have been made, so far, and the results thereof; and

(d) if not. the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The import of wheat has been done at

competitive international prices against the global tenders floated by STC/MMTC/PEC (Government of India Undertakings).

During 2006-07, 53.79 lakh tons of wheat was imported at weighted average price of US $ 205.34 per ton *i.e.* Rs.8,214.00 per ton (approx.). Further, during 2007-08, 18.44 lakh tons of wheat has been imported at a weighted average price of US $ 366.83 per ton *i.e.* Rs. 14,673.00 per ton (apprpx.).

(c) and (d) Question does not arise.

Appointment of unregistered doctors in hospitals

†1562. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only those doctors who are registered with Medical Council of India (MCI) can apply for jobs in Government and private hospitals;

(b) whether Government is aware that many private hospitals are appointing doctors who are not registered with MCI;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government against such private hospitals and doctors?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) A doctor having permanent registration from State Medical Council/Medical Council of India can apply for job in Government and Private Hospitals.

(b) No.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Shortage of medical facilities

1563. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that as pointed out in the Sixteenth Report of the Committee on Empowerment of Women (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) as per the population norms based on 2001 Census, there is a shortage of 13804 Sub Centres, 3353 Primary Health Centres and 2581 Community Health Centres, and as against a requirement of 22669 Doctors in PHCs, only 22273 were in position, resulting in a shortfall of 1793 Doctors, in CHCs, as against a requirement of 15640 Specialists, only 3979 Specialists were in position as on March, 2006 resulting in a shortfall of 9413 Specialists (75 per cent shortage); and

(b) what is the present status and how does it compare with neighbouring/ advanced countries?